

Aluminum Division  
Lumbia Falls Reduction Plant  
P.O. Box 10  
Lumbia Falls, Montana 59912  
Telephone 406 892 3261



by mel ruder

would happen to the Flathead economy following  
the opening of Hungry Horse Dam was a major problem for many  
years. The 1948-53 Hungry Horse Project was the first major  
dam to be built after World War II. Many of the men  
who built the dam and worked in reservoir clearing and  
logging were recently out of military service. With  
no families they were seeking a new place to live, and  
Flathead with its hunting, fishing and scenery was  
the place.  
The struggle in getting a power using industry  
located here, and involved were such men as Congressman Mike  
Carmichael. Federal legislation provided for lower-cost power  
for 100 miles of the dam as well as downstream benefits for  
the area here.  
A 1951-52 report comment included: "For 18 months  
in the Flathead we've had our hopes raised skyward, and  
then came down when it came to creating a sizeable year-  
round industry."  
The article continued: "Ahead is economic slump with  
people moving to the coast as Hungry Horse Dam is completed."  
The next mention was: "Wouldn't it be something to have  
a tax free dam in the Flathead serving just to

ant was  
erence, and  
is starting

which  
neers. Then  
the Crossing,  
was purchased.  
In this case,  
Anaconda Copper  
and Harvey's

at least ACM,  
in Montana."  
Department of Justice  
of ACM, one of  
the producer

and tax  
MacGilvra,  
or consider-  
the Stoltze  
the bench.  
that since

1949 the United States was seeing annual production of aluminum top that of copper.

Delay in announcement of plant go-ahead included difficulties of Reynolds Metals Co. obtaining the \$87 million in bank and insurance company loans to build an alumina facility that would utilize bauxite from Jamaica.

An editorial of August 10, 1951 read in part: "There's been a shadow over this valley that when Hungry Horse Dam is completed the Flathead would not be a good job provider and place to live for all of its 34,000 people....."

Meanwhile on August 29, 1951 even as the two millionth cubic yard of concrete was being placed in the dam, Doug Follett, Whitefish, then a University of Montana senior and Bureau of Reclamation guide, was telling a group of visitors: "Hungry Horse now at 370 of its eventual 564 feet above bedrock will become the world's third highest, fourth largest concrete dam."

Peak employment on Hungry Horse Project was reached in August, 1951 with 2,550 working. During winters of 30 years ago, the Flathead knew unemployment totals up to 2,700. Cause included lay-offs in construction, woods industry (more so in that day) and tourist services. The Flathead was well aware of the need for year-around employment.